worked out a plan to double the afforestation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas earmarked for this purpose;

(c) whether the National Wastelands Development Board has released funds for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMWNT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). During the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90), the total area coverage in all States and Union Territories through afforestation/tree planting activities under the 20-Point Programme was about 8.8 million hectares. This programme is proposed to be substantially expanded during the Eighth Five Year Plan, which is under finalisation.

Effects of Sariska Mining on Environment

3026. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT *AND FORESTS be pleased to state:*

(a) whether the mining work in Sariska, Rajasthan has adverse effects on environment; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to protect wild life in Sariska?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter pertaining to stoppage of mining activaities in Sariska is the subject mtter of a writ petition in the Supreme Court of India. Intensive patrolling is being done by the staff to provide protection to wild life under the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Electrification of Mughal Sarai-Patna-Asansol Line

3027. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to electrify Mughal Sarai-Patna-Asansol railway line;

(b) if so,the estimated cost, funds allotted and the time by which work on the project is likely to be started; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Electrification of Asansol-Sitarampur section has already been completed. Electrification of Mughalsarai-Patna-Sitarampur section is an approved work. Electrification of Sitarampur-Jhajha Section, a portion of Mughalsarai-Sitarampur section, will be taken up as first phase, the cost of which has been estimated at Rs. 55.2. crores.

Further extension beyond Jhajha to Mughalsarai will depend upon availability of resources and relative priorities for electrification of other high density routes.